

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Public Comments on 2020/2021 Furbearer Trapping
Regulations and Quotas

Received after 7/28/2020

Swift Fox Comments.....page 2

General Trapping Comments.....page 3

**Please note that some of these comments may pertain to
multiple topics; therefore, the page numbers are only meant as a
general guide.*

SWIFT FOX COMMENTS

1. *From: Sarah Bertsch <sarah@optimalanimals.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 9:50 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please stop trapping swift fox!*

Please, please stop using traps! Traps are cruel & indiscriminate.

Fox are part of a healthy ecosystem.

People come to Montana for.....the wildlife! Why are you killing the wildlife in such heinously cruel ways?

Please stop trapping swift fox & other innocent animals!

Sarah N. Bertsch

Optimal Animals, LLC: Acupressure & Reiki for the Animals You Love

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Acupressure & Reiki are not substitutes for regular veterinary or medical care.

Optimal Animals, LLC does not diagnose, treat, offer medical advice, prescribe drugs, perform adjustments or surgery.

2. *From: Linda nazzari <lindaflint08@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:45 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No Trap for foxes*

" Dear Montana Wildlife Commission,
I was disturbed to recently read about the ongoing trapping of swift foxes. I understand you are considering changes to the length of the trapping season, but I strongly urge you to stop the practice all together. There is no value to killing these creatures, and much harm to the balance of the environment by killing them off. I find the practice of trapping inhumane and cruel with no justification. Please be better stewards of the environment and animals who rely on our mercy.

Thank you
From Rome, Italy

Linda Censi

3. *From: Sarina Strickland <darkfairy936@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 6:21 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Swift fox*

Stop trapping swift foxes!!

GENERAL TRAPPING COMMENTS

4. *From: grogers@blackfoot.net <grogers@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:31 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: info@footloosemontana.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Allowing trapping in recreational areas.*

Greetings from Montana Rancher,

I am a good Montana neighbor and rancher. I have had trouble numerous times from trappers. These idiots believe they, as a trapper, have the right to enter beyond our property no trespassing signs. I told the last one, if he did, he would be wearing the trap as a hat. You guys need to get a handle on this group of idiots, now.

And now, why are you allowing trapping at public recreation areas, really? This is bad government to turn a blind eye on this. ALL of YOU, personally, are endangering the public now. We Montanans can't believe you condone this BS. This is out of control. You have the power to fix this. Get this fixed, NOW! This is low road politics! Do the right thing as the rest of good Montanans would do. I believe it is time for the stronger real Montanans to get involved with this and to guide you to do your job for all Montanans. We, Montanans, are much stronger than this little group of idiots and the politicians that support this. Grow a pair and do the right thing for your fellow Montanans. Get this fixed now please, not tomorrow.

What would you do if they put a trap in your back yard and it trapped one that is part of your family? I suspect you might get off your butt on this.

Greg Rogers

Stevensville, MT 59870

5. *From: Brandon Bert <amazinggrasshead@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:24 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: info@footloosemontana.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Elimination of trapping on public lands around Missoula*

Hello,

I'm writing with my support to eliminate trapping on public lands around Missoula. As a landowner with 60 acres in the Rattlesnake, I think it is important that we recognize the negative effects this is having on wildlife and family pets. Please support this important initiative to remove illegal trapping.

Thank you,
Brandon

Brandon Bert
415-722-5710

6. *From: CJ ROLPHE <cjrolphe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 7:52 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>; Footloose Montana <info@footloosemontana.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MONTANA TRAPPING*

END TRAPPING IN MONTANA NOW!

7. *From: envirogail@q.com <envirogail@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:20 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: info@footloosemontana.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Public Safety and Re-wilding proposal*

FWP:

We have been distressed for many years that a small group of MT trappers continues to inhumanely trap our native wildlife and endanger the public on our public lands for \$28 a year. What a travesty in the 21st century. This barbaric practice must end. You must engage with the general public that opposes trapping. We value our native wildlife and our pets. We support Footloose Montana's Public Safety and Re-Wilding proposal to at least begin the process of relegating trapping to the dustbin of history where it belongs. Just do your job for the people of MT not for a small but vocal, self-serving group of trappers who are seemingly trapped in the past.

Sincerely,

Gail and John Richardson

5263 Cimmeron Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

8. *From: Kacie Kaile <kkail001@fiu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:17 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Trapping animals should be banned*

Please stop the trapping and torturing of animals. Hunters should go find their own food and humanely dispose of them. Setting traps may have worked for our pioneer friends but the time is 2020. Traps are too easy of a kill for these animals. Make hunters do some actual work and most of all stop the torture of these animals.

9. *From: jan carr <jectwh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:02 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Trapping on Public lands*

Dear Commissioners,

I am taking this opportunity at the planned [August 13 \[x-apple-data-detectors\]](#) hearing regarding trapping to ask a question I've been wondering about for years.

We had two dogs caught in traps a few hundred yards off our property on public lands in the 9 Mile area. After more than 24 hours they were released by the trapper who reported to Fish Wildlife and Parks that they had no tags. We searched for them all day and night. One finally came home the next day with her tag still on which had our phone number and address on it. She carried her big swollen foot. It was -6°. The other one was not able to find her way home for four days. She also had her tag on. She was so debilitated she had to be euthanized. After four years of multiple surgeries and a big open wound that would not heal, the second dog died. When I talked to FWP at the time, it was obvious that they were going to protect this trapper regardless of what he had done and what he reported, which was false.

We now are no longer able to enjoy riding horses behind our place with our dogs in fear of their coming upon another trap.

Here is my simple question:

How can a department that calls itself Fish WILDLIFE and Parks allow this kind of suffering to wild animals?? If I were to take my dogs into the woods, secure them with a metal trap by the leg and tie them to the tree, I would be arrested for Animal Abuse. Why is it ok for those entrusted with the care of our wildlife to allow this to happen to non domesticated animals? To even promote it, to sponsor it? Animals feel pain and suffer whether they are domesticated or wild.

I don't understand it.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to ask.

Jan Carr
23205 Nine Mile Rd
Huson, MT
59846
406-626-4757

Sent from my iPhone

10. *From: Ty Beh <ty@stocom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:42 PM
To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] trapping on public property-*

Dear Commissioners,

I am taking this opportunity at the planned August 13 hearing regarding trapping to ask a question I've been wondering about for years.

We had two dogs caught in traps a few hundred yards off our property on public lands in the 9 Mile area. After more than 24 hours they were released by the trapper who reported to Fish Wildlife and Parks that they had no tags. We searched for them all day and night. One finally came home the next day with her tag still on which had our phone number and address on it. She carried her big swollen foot. It was -6°. The other one finally was able to find her way home in four days, also with her tag on. She was so debilitated she had to be euthanized. After four years of multiple surgeries and a big open wound that would not heal, the second dog died. When I talked to FWP at the time, it was obvious that they were going to protect this trapper regardless of what he had done and what he reported, which was false.

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I don't understand it.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to ask.

I am resending you this anguished letter and adding:

How is it that regular people and their animals are being killed and injured for a few trappers? All Americans should be able to use our land for recreation, and how can we do that when trappers- a few

trappers, want the entire use of public lands to be exclusively for trappers? How about your personal land? Do you let trappers trap on your own land? Probably not.

Please limit trap use to areas where animals children and adults are not put in unnecessary danger.

Thank you

Ty Beh 505-620-1889

11. *From: Clint and Sherri <clint-sherri@hughes.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 9:01 AM
To: FWP Wildlife <fwpwld@mt.gov>
Cc: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Trapping*

We would like to comment on trapping not only in interface areas but in general. We need to adjust our laws as our society changes. We live within the Forest Service and see that our animal population is low, very low. We have plenty of a few species such as elk . Why do we keep trapping at all? Do you wear fur? Betting people in China are. People come out here to be free and let their dogs run up the road, should they have to worry about the safety of their pets.

One person was trapping by the highway parking lot where the school buses let the students out to snowshoe.

That makes for a nice outing to see a trapped animal. Please stop the torturous practice of trapping. With hope for a different view on this, Sherri Shoop

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows 10

12. *From: Carol A <ckmesa@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:28 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] wildlife - wrong agenda*

Just sickens so many to see these beautiful animals struggling in traps and suffering horribly.....It must end. We know that ranching lobby money is your second income..... and that is absurd. It is time to note that we are losing too many species of wildlife at a rapid rate. I deplore the actions of trappers and the non functioning wildlife agencies. Who are you protecting and helping preserve? Please change policies. Carol Abbott 81635